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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

NISHIDA, Takanobu

Atty. Ref.: 900-407; Confirmation No. 6028

Appl. No. 09/986,987

TC/A.U. 1763

Filed: November 13, 2001

Examiner: Olsen, A.

For: ASHING METHOD

\* \* \* \* \*

May 24, 2004

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION**

Responsive to the FINAL Official Action dated February 23, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as indicated herein. This amendment document is formatted as follows:

Amendments to the Claims:	pages: 2 - 5
Remarks/Arguments	pages: 6+